

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04324 301742Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /088 W
-----044268 301823Z /62

P R 301438Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2295
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS
SUBJ: NAVON EMERGING AS SOLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

REF: TEL AVIV 4142

1. ONLY A WEEK AFTER DECLARING HE WAS NOT A CANDIDATE, ALIGNMENT MK YITZHAK NAVON YESTERDAY PUT HIMSELF BACK INTO THE RACE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RENEWED CANDIDACY FOLLOWED THE WITHDRAWAL OF PROFESSOR YITZHAK CHAVET ON MARCH 28.

2. NAVON ACTED AFTER THE NRP ASSURED HIM OF ITS SUPPORT. WITH THE STRONG INDICATION THAT HE WOULD BE LEFT WITH ONLY THE SUPPORT OF HIS LIBERAL PARTY, ELIMELECH RIMALT THEREUPON REMOVED HIS NAME FROM THE RUNNING,
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LEAVING NAVON AS THE SOLE CONTENDER.

3. NAVON CAN ONLY BE SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED NOW BY AN AGREEMENT ON ANOTHER CANDIDATE BEFORE THE APRIL 9 FILING DEADLINE BY A LIKUD WHICH IS BADLY DIVIDED ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE. EVEN SUCH A LAST MINUTE LIKUD EFFORT WOULD PROBABLY FALL SHORT OF STOPPING THE

POPULAR NAVON AND WOULD MERELY COMPOUND THE LIKUD'S
HUMILIATION AND RECORD OF INEPTITUDE IN HANDLING THE
ELECTION. MORE LIKELY, BEGIN MAY WELL ENDORSE NAVON
NOW IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE VIRTUE OF NECESSITY. AT LEAST
BEGIN WILL HAVE HIS SEPHARDI. HOWEVER, THE SCARS LEFT FROM
THE HERUT-LIBERAL BACKING OF RIVAL CANDIDATES, THEREBY
ENSURING THE ELECTION OF A FAVORITE OF THE OPPOSITION,
WILL BE LONG IN HEALING. LIKUD STALWARTS ARE ALREADY GRUMBLING
THAT AFTER WAITING 30 YEARS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE ONE
OF THEIRS IN THE PRESIDENCY, BEGIN BLEW IT.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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